



2022 CABERNET SAUVIGNON
FS 81
Rutherford AVA

- Release Date:** January, 2026
- Production:** 10 Barrels
- Varietal:** 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- Vineyards:** Star Vineyard, Rutherford AVA, Napa Valley
- Team:** Justin and Seana Stephens, Proprietors
Kirk Venge, Winemaker
Andrew Bohi, Director of Operations
- Cooperage:** Aged for 28 months in French oak, 80% new.
- Vintage Notes:** 2022 continued the relatively dry conditions of the previous few years, but with some edges sanded down thanks to a smattering of winter rains. The spring and early summer were quite idyllic with moderate weather and slow but steady ripening, which continued well into August. The season then took a turn when we saw a spike in heat that lasted for 10 days and brought 110+ degree temperatures to the valley floor. This created demand for attention and intervention in the vineyards and unfortunately, some sites collapsed in the heat, leading us to lose a significant amount of our Cabernet for the vintage. However, thanks to a light rain after the heat spike, two of our sites were able to hang well into October and achieve optimal ripeness.
- Vineyard Notes:** Situated in the heart of the Rutherford Bench, about a quarter mile east of the Rutherford Grill, lies our portion of Star Vineyard. The entire 55-acre vineyard was originally a prune orchard, but a small vineyard was planted there in 1974 to Chardonnay and that original block still thrives to this day. Reg Oliver, who was a close friend of Justin's dad, purchased the land in 1984 and began converting the vineyard to Cabernet Sauvignon. Reg sadly passed in 2005; however, his son Jack stepped in and has expertly managed the vineyard under the guidance of Pina Vineyard Management ever since. Jack and Justin have been Friends Since 1981, hence the name, FS 81.
- Our block on Star Vineyard was planted in 2007 in the alluvial soils which give Rutherford its dusty reputation and is a 50/50 split of Martha's Clone and Clone 7.
- Tasting Notes:** Our 2022 FS 81 begins true to form with chocolate covered cherries rising from the glass alongside notes of berry cobbler, cocoa nib, amaretto, clove and tar. The palate has a radiant core of black and blue fruit that is soft and supple and encases the tannins once joined on the midpalate. The finish shows fantastic symmetry between fruit and structure, joined by delicate herbals as it lingers.
- Aging Advice:** The warmth of the 2022 vintage yielded generous fruit-forward wines that are already drinking beautifully but we feel confident that the 2022 vintage will also gain nuance over 5+ years of cellaring.